

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 have been examined and claims 1 and 4-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

**I. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S.P. 6,646,962 to Sasaki et al.
("Sasaki")**

Claims 1 and 4-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Sasaki.

Applicants are filing a verified English translation of Japanese priority document, JPA No. 2000-122467 to perfect their claim to priority. Accordingly, Sasaki is not prior art because the priority date of the present application (April 24, 2000) is earlier than the U.S. filing date of Sasaki (February 27, 2001).

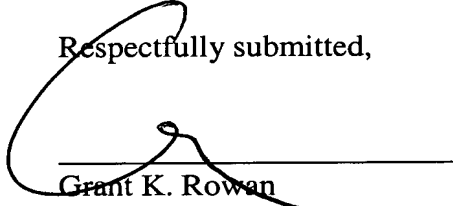
II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/836,237

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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